United Nations S/AC.37/2004/(1455)/28

Security Council

Distr.: General
31 March 2004

Original: English

Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) concerning Al-Qaida and the Taliban and associated individuals and entities

Letter dated 31 March 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Somalia to the United Nations addressed to the Chairman of the Committee

In compliance with paragraph 22 of resolution 1526 (2004) of the Security Council, I have the honour to submit herewith an interim report by the Transitional National Government of Somalia and requests for assistance relevant to the above-mentioned Security Council resolution (see annex).

(*Signed*) Ahmed Abdi **Hashi**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the
Somali Republic to the United Nations

04-30270 (E) 220404

Annex to the letter dated 31 March 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Somalia to the United Nations addressed to the Chairman of the Committee

Interim Report of the Government of Somalia regarding the implementation of Security Council Resolution 1267 of 1999 and other relevant Security Council Resolutions.

I have the honor to refer to the requirement stipulated in paragraph 22 of Security Council resolution 1526 of 2004 (S/Res/1526/2004) requesting inter alia "that all states that have not submitted these reports to explain in writing to the Committee by 31 March 2004 their reasons for non-reporting."

I would like to draw the attention of the Committee that the Somali Government submitted its first report (S/2001/1287) and signed the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism. In the interim, the Transitional National Government of Somalia has:

- Identified, registered and investigated the legal status of foreigners living in Mogadishu with a view to finding whether these foreigners had any links with Al-Qaida/Taliban;
- Cooperated bilaterally with some member states by providing lists and profiles of foreign residents in Mogadishu for background security checks against existing data bases;
- facilitated a forensic auditing of Albarakat's accounts at its Headquarters in Dubai, United Arab Emirates;
- Shared useful intelligence with some member states of the anti-terrorism coalition and finally the high level Anti-Terrorism Task Force, chaired by the Minister of Interior continues to monitor any potential activities by Al-Qaida

The above activities clearly indicate the Transitional National Government's firm commitment to stand and cooperate with the international community in the global fight against terrorism. In this connection, the Transitional National Government reaffirms its unequivocal and clear position which is anchored in its firm policy of

rejecting the use of terrorism as a means of achieving political goals, irrespective of any argument advanced, pretext invoked or label given.

The Somali authorities attach great importance to the Committee's List of individuals and entities associated with Al-Qaida/Taliban and will make every effort to impose the mandated sanctions.

However, our determination to submit a report in accordance with the Committee's guidelines and timeframe, has been severely constrained by the current political reality in Somalia and the limited capacity of the Transitional National Government.

The Committee is no doubt aware of the state of affairs currently prevailing in Somalia. The Transitional National Government of Somalia inherited destroyed institutions and devastated infrastructure. Little help was available to rehabilitate destroyed institutions and infrastructure, which in turn restricted The Transitional Government's ability.

Furthermore, the Committee is aware of the ongoing IGAD sponsored Peace Conference in Kenya aimed at establishing Interim Government of national unity. The Conference continues.

The Transitional National Government needs urgent and adequate assistance by the Committee to enable it to comply fully with Security Council resolutions 1267 (1999), 1373 of 2001, 1526 of 2004 and other relevant resolutions. This assistance can be directed towards:

- Active political support by the Security Council for the creation of an-all inclusive government of national unity for Somalia which can exert total territorial control over Somalia instead of a vacuum which Al-Qaida/Taliban may endeavor to exploit;
- Strengthening the institutional capacity of administrative structures including police, immigration/border and customs controls. Such support would have facilitated the incorporation and inclusion of the Committee's List within our legal system;

- Establishing/strengthening financial institutions that are transparent which will monitor transactions with a view to ensuring the freezing of any assets that may belong to individuals and entities in the List;
- Providing much needed expertise in the legal field to ensure the compatibility of national legislation with the requirements of relevant anti-terrorism Security Council resolutions;
- Strengthening the capacities of police and intelligence forces as well as the Anti-Terrorist Task Force to enable the Transitional National Government to identify and investigate any group(s) that may provide support to Al Qaida/Taliban;
- Assisting in the establishment of an effective border control systems in Somalia to prevent the entry into or transit through the territory of Somalia of individuals listed by the Committee;
- Strict enforcement of the Arms Embargo on Somalia established pursuant to Security Council resolution 751 of 1993 and subsequent resolutions and by imposing sanctions on the violators of these resolutions. Such strict enforcement of the Arms Embargo on Somalia would prevent Al Qaida and Taliban to attempt, directly or indirectly, to acquire any weapons from Somalia.

The above-mentioned are but some areas where the Transitional National Government of Somalia would need immediate assistance in order to comply with Security Council resolutions on combating terrorism. The Transitional National Government will submit to this Committee and the Counter Terrorism Committee a detailed request for assistance in order to enhance its capacity to contribute actively and vigorously to the global fight against this scourge of terrorism. Furthermore, the Transitional National Government of Somalia reiterates its readiness to cooperate with this Committee in any possible manner and will endeavor to submit the required reports in a timely fashion in the future.

Finally, The Transitional National Government of Somalia expresses the hope that the Committee will take into consideration its unique position.